

"I guess I knew this day was coming," he said, choking up as he spoke. "I'm not so sure I'm ready to deal with it."

Jeffords later wrote two books reflecting on his controversial move: a 2001 explanation of his decision titled "My Declaration of Independence" and a 2003 memoir, "An Independent Man."

A POLITICAL LIFE

Jeffords, the son of a Vermont Supreme Court justice, grew up in Rutland, studied at Yale University, received his law degree from Harvard University and entered politics in 1966, winning a race for state Senate from Rutland County.

Two years later, he was elected attorney general, and soon he became embroiled in a fight with International Paper's plant in Ticonderoga, N.Y., regarding the discharge of mercury-laden sludge into Lake Champlain.

Jeffords ran for governor in 1972, but many in the party resented his liberal positions on the environment and other matters, and he lost a bitter primary battle to Luther Hackett, a business-oriented Republican.

"He took it fine," said Bruce Post, recalling his time as a volunteer with the Jeffords for Governor campaign. "I don't think he was bitter or anything."

Hackett lost to Democrat Tom Salmon in the general election. Two years later, Jeffords won the state's lone U.S. House seat when incumbent Rep. Richard Mallory ran for U.S. Senate.

Jeffords initially lived in a camper in Washington after taking the House seat. He went on to win six House re-election contests, then won a seat in the U.S. Senate in 1988 when Sen. Robert T. Stafford, R-Vt., another Republican moderate, retired.

Jeffords was a consistent champion of education, helping to pass the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as a freshman House member and becoming so immersed in efforts to support dairy farmers that he was dubbed "Mr. Dairy."

He also worked behind the scenes to help Soviet dissidents Alexander Solzhenitsyn by secretly arranging Solzhenitsyn's move to Cavendish, where the author lived for 18 years before returning Russia. Jefford also aided Soviet dissident Alexander Ginzburg after he was expelled from Russia in 1979.

During the Reagan years, Jeffords fought the president's plans to cut back on environmental regulations and lower taxes. In 1987, he was the only Republican House member to vote with Democrats to pass a \$12 billion tax increase. The measure passed the House by a single vote.

Surveys of his votes by liberal and conservative groups determined he leaned slightly toward liberal positions, and Jeffords continued to irritate GOP leaders.

He supported gay-rights legislation, voted for a gun-control measure after saying he opposed it and introduced a bill to force power producers to lower their emissions.

Opinions are divided on what caused him to finally decide to leave the Republican Party. Shortly before he made the decision, he voted against President George W. Bush's budget, saying it was too big on tax cuts and undercut spending on education, child care, veterans and the environment.

Jeffords also might have been irked that the White House had not invited him to an event celebrating the Vermont winner of the teacher of the year, even though Jeffords was chairman of chairman of the Senate education committee.

"Looking ahead, I can see more and more instances where I'll disagree with the president on very fundamental issues—the issues of choice, the direction of the judiciary, tax-and-spending decisions, missile defense, energy and the environment, and a host of

other issues, large and small," Jeffords said in the speech announcing his decision.

Jeffords, who had just been re-elected to the Senate in 2000, vowed to run for re-election in 2006 and repeated that assertion until 2005, when he abruptly scheduled a news conference at the Sheraton Hotel and Conference Center in South Burlington to announce he would leave the Senate at the end of 2006.

"I am feeling the aches and pains that come when you reach 70," he said in his speech. "My memory fails me on occasion, but Liz would probably argue that this has been going on the last 50 years."

Uncharacteristically, he took no questions at the news conference, and appeared tired and unsteady on his feet.

Jeffords' funeral is set for 11 a.m. Friday at Grace Congregational United Church of Christ in Rutland.

REMEMBERING 9/11

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today we remember 9/11. The President, First Lady and Vice President led a moment of silence at the White House this morning. The anniversary was observed at the Pentagon, at Ground Zero in New York, and in a field in Shanksville, PA. Across the country, we are connected by the sadness we all feel as we reflect on the lives lost, some 3,000 Americans, to this blatant act of terrorism.

We can all recall that moment. I recall looking down the Mall toward the Washington Monument and watching the black smoke billowing across the Mall from the Pentagon, where that deadly crash took the lives of passengers on that plane and innocent people working in defense of America. That was a moment that will never be forgotten.

There's a Hebrew word used in the Old Testament known as "selah." It doesn't have an easy translation but it is meant to serve as a pause-and-consider moment between passages. At 8:46 a.m. this morning, we observed a moment of silence to remember those souls lost on that day. We should all experience a "selah" moment today because we will never forget 9/11. Pause and consider, pause and remember.

Thirteen years later, we still live in the shadow of the fallen towers of the World Trade Center and the attack on the Pentagon. Al Qaeda brought its darkness to our shores and took the lives of innocent people. President John F. Kennedy said, "We are not here to curse the darkness, but to light the candle that can guide us through that darkness to a safe and sane future."

It was in our bleakest moments in those tragic days that we found the light. Remember the outpouring of compassion and common purpose that united us on 9/11 and for weeks after. The attacks were the worst humanity could provide. Our response as a people was the best. The American people are always the candle that guides us.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam President, I rise today to remember the precious lives lost 13 years ago in New York,

Washington, and Pennsylvania. Our perception of the world changed in very dramatic ways by sunset on that day of infamy and we awoke on September 12 to what we believed to be a much more dangerous reality. We have learned a number of lessons since that day. Some were crystal clear almost immediately while others required us to walk a more difficult path to gain clarity. As we reflect on the 13th anniversary of 9/11, I would like to remind my colleagues of the two principles that can serve as our anchor amidst uncertainty and stormy circumstances.

First is that the followers of Osama bin Laden turned the openness and freedom of American society against us by savagely using civilian passenger jets as missiles to demolish the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and destroy a large section of the Pentagon. They wield the weapons of fear, chaos, and destruction. We must remember that our foundation is built on freedom, justice, and equality. The greatest weapon in our arsenal is not a munition or aircraft but our light that remains shining upon the hill. Ours is the greatest democracy this planet has ever known and that is why it is a threat to those who seek darkness and destruction. We build, we progress, we encourage, we respect, but we do not sink to the level of our adversaries even if that means the fight is not fair. I am reminded of the words of President Kennedy, who said, "In the long history of the world, only a few generations have been granted the role of defending freedom in its hour of maximum danger. I do not shrink from this responsibility—I welcome it."

The second principle that we must remember is that the United States of America remains an indispensable Nation and to those to whom much is given, much is expected in return. We have a unique role in the world to lead the international community in providing stability, humanitarian relief, and defense of the innocent. Today we remain engaged in a war against elements of extremist terror organizations bent on the destruction of all people regardless of faith, nationality, or race who do not accept their tyrannical 9th century vision of the world. They are unlike any enemy we have ever faced in that they respect no boundaries, have no clear end, target civilians and servicemembers indiscriminately, and they are determined to make our home front the front lines.

Thirteen years ago, as the attacks unfolded and we learned of the scope of the Al Qaeda network, we all questioned how our Nation would respond and whether we could recover. But as the days rolled by and we saw the determination, the compassion, and the commitment of so many individuals giving freely of their time and their money to help those affected by the attacks, we laid that question to rest. The bravery, resourcefulness, and the shared sense of purpose we witnessed that day and every day since 9/11 have

shown the world the “stuff” of which Americans are made: an unquenchable love of freedom and an unwavering commitment to democracy. I have heard it said that 9/11 did not test America’s character; it revealed it.

For the better part of the 20th century the United States and our allies fought a successful battle against the genocidal forces of fascism and totalitarianism. We defeated the Nazis. We won the Cold War. In the bloody struggle between ideologies, democratic governments triumphed over repressive regimes.

Since that day, we have consecrated the time and place where these terrorist acts occurred. We have commemorated the brave and dedicated individuals who faced 9/11 and its consequences head-on. We have honored and laid to rest our fallen war heroes. We have rebuilt the mangled section of the Pentagon, honored Flight 77’s bravery in the Pennsylvania countryside and returned Ground Zero in New York City to the world’s vibrant center of economic activity. When I think of these locations, I am reminded of the words President Lincoln delivered at Gettysburg that “we cannot dedicate, we cannot consecrate, we cannot hallow this ground. The brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated it, far above our poor power to add or detract”.

We have also made mistakes but we acknowledge and learn from those mistakes.

I believe we will prevail against this enemy for the same reason we have been victorious in previous conflicts: the overwhelming majority of people in the world want freedom and justice and dignity and opportunity. I am confident because America remains a beacon of hope to the oppressed everywhere. I am confident because I know this generation will meet all challenges and threats we face as a Nation as successfully as we met the challenges and threats of the last century. We must remain clear-eyed as to identity and objectives of our enemy and the distinction between us. We cannot shrink when the oppressed cry for freedom and the enslaved call for justice.

The 9/11 anniversary is especially poignant this year as it falls just 3 days short of the bicentennial of the Star-Spangled Banner, our National Anthem. The greatest navy in the world bombarded Fort McHenry for 25 hours, starting on September 13, 1814. British troops were poised to move into Baltimore after Fort McHenry fell. The Nation’s capital was in flames; the Nation’s future was in grave doubt. And then, an amazing thing happened: Fort McHenry did not fall to the British. A huge, glorious flag was flying over the fort as dawn broke on September 14, 1814. The British forces retreated. One of the darkest hours in America’s history turned into one of its brightest moments, and Maryland lawyer Francis Scott Key was inspired to write the Star-Spangled Banner.

We will have additional challenges in the months and years ahead. But we must never forget the sacrifice previous generations of Americans have made to safeguard our liberty. And we must never forget that our enemies fight because they have so little freedom while we Americans fight because we have so much freedom and that makes all the difference.

RECOGNIZING CANYONLANDS

Mr. HATCH. Madam President, thank you for the opportunity today to pay tribute to a timeless feature of Utah’s beautiful geography: Canyonlands National Park. This week, citizens of Utah and friends around the United States join together in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Canyonlands National Park. As one of the “Mighty Five” national parks in Utah, the Canyonlands celebrate a landmark anniversary, and are a source of great pride for Utahns and the outdoors community nationwide.

Canyonlands National Park is located in the southeast of our State where the otherworldly cliffs, recesses, and red rock attract climbing, mountain biking, and rafting enthusiasts from across the globe. Anyone who walks down Main Street in Moab can hear languages from German to Japanese to English, as well as accents from all over America. People plan and save for years to visit Utah to behold the invulnerable landscapes of the Canyonlands. As one stands on the edge of a 1,000-foot cliff, while seeing hundreds of miles in all directions, nature somehow puts life in perspective.

This perspective gained should not be underestimated. There is a story in common between those who visit the park and the land they experience. It is a story told in rock layers that echo ancient seas, coastal mud flats, braided streambeds, and wind-blown dunes hundreds of feet thick. It is the story of time and change, to which all of God’s creation is subject. Clues to this past lie preserved in stone, along the walls of deep gorges where great rivers once roared. The three main regions of Canyonlands: the Island in the Sky, Needles, and the Maze, were once an environment quite different and more lush. In what is now desert, shallow seas once ebbed and flowed. In many ways the story of Canyonlands is a story of transformation, and this is something to which we can all relate. We are reminded of the hunter-gatherer peoples who once flourished in Canyonlands by the Native American rock art, in the “Great Gallery” region, that dates back as early as 2000 BC. When I consider those painted figures together with the mosaic of colors, shapes, and pinnacles of Canyonlands, I, like many others, recall the enduring relationship between man and nature. It is this continuing legacy that we call our attention to today.

We owe a debt of gratitude to the people, both elected officials and citi-

zens, who possessed the foresight to recognize the value of Canyonlands and created the park 50 years ago. These efforts did not come without controversy and today much controversy remains. The area around the park holds diverse importance to the local community and a variety of stakeholders. Many spend their free time exploring over 2,500 miles of roads around the park in four-wheel drive vehicles while others find a special peace in the solitude of the Canyonlands desert. These interests may seem in conflict, but the vast lands of Utah amply accommodate the equally vast spectrum of pursuits.

For several years now, the Utah congressional delegation has been developing a public lands bill that will bring certainty and balance to the areas around Canyonlands and other landscapes in Utah. The land surrounding the national park would be protected with designations to ensure that our grandchildren can stand on the same red rock cliffs to look at the glorious sunsets that our pioneer ancestors saw and view vistas people from around the world come to see today. The bill will benefit our children by exchanging State lands in areas that do not produce revenues, with Federal lands that can be developed responsibly. The revenues derived, as a result of the thoughtful development enabled by these exchanges, will benefit school children in Utah. Only Congress can make these changes to the way our public lands are managed. At a time of congressional dysfunction, this is one area of positive happenings.

What better way to celebrate the anniversary of Canyonlands National Park than by bringing certainty to a region that has been denied stability for one-half century? I am proud to be a part of this ongoing process to protect the land surrounding Canyonlands National Park.

AMERICORPS PROGRAM ANNIVERSARY

Ms. MIKULSKI. Madam President, I wish to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the AmeriCorps program.

I want to take a moment to say thank you—thank you to all of the volunteers and service workers out there. They are selflessly taking time out of their lives to help their fellow Americans in times of need. They are the ones out there building homes, clearing thousands of acres of forest burnt by wildfires, tutoring and mentoring our children, and assisting the elderly. They are unflagging, unflinching, and determined to make a difference.

National service has always been a passion of mine. When we started in the 1970s with the establishment of a domestic volunteer corps—similar to Peace Corps—I wanted to capture the fervor, the passion, and dynamic qualities of a social movement that would bring people to arms wielding change. At some point, it seemed we lost sight of what Alexis de Tocqueville called